

SENATOR NEWELL: Mr. President and members of the body, the amendment that I offered to LB 169 is an amendment that simply says that for this budget year we have to have a temporary rate. We are adding the emergency clause in the bill so that at the end of this year we will be setting the tax rates and it says a temporary rate of 20% and 3.5% on the sales tax. It also further clarifies... it also further clarifies...well we can change that to 19% which is the withholding or we can go to 18 or we can go to 16.5 but I felt that it ought to be a little philosophically correct here, at least consistent. The Revenue Committee shall introduce the bill in proposing the rates of the income tax and the sales tax and they shall cause that bill to be introduced, have a public hearing on it and advance to the General and Select File waiting the final action of the budget considerations. And after the budget is set it is the intention at that time to adopt the appropriate rates. It is my belief that with this kind of an amendment and with this kind of legislation we will not be changing the rates. They will not be bumping up and down as they have. There will be some consistency that this Legislature will recognize that we have to make budgetary decisions, not only based on what is wanted and needed, but also based on our willingness to raise the taxes necessary. I think it will create greater responsibility and I think this process is a reasonable process, very similar to what other states do. With that I urge the adoption of the amendment.

PRESIDENT: Senator Haberman.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Point of order, Mr. Chairman, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: State your point.

SENATOR HABERMAN: LB 169 sets up a new board or commission to determine the sales and income tax. Therefore, this amendment I don't think is germane to the bill. It sets up the 169, specifically changes who determines, who determines whether we should have an income or sales tax increase and, therefore, this amendment is not germane to 169.

PRESIDENT: Senator Newell.

SENATOR NEWELL: Mr. Chairman, there is going to be plenty of confusion on LB 169 without the additional help that we have just received but the. . . .

SENATOR HABERMAN: Just a minute, Mr. Chairman, I think that is entirely out of order and I'm not going to stand here and have remarks like that, if you don't mind.